



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/532,034	03/21/2000	Jay H. Connelly	042390.P8388	6937
7590	08/09/2006		EXAMINER	
James Y Go Blakely Sokoloff Taylor & Zafman LLP 12400 Wilshire Boulevard Seventh Floor Los Angeles, CA 90025-1026			BLAIR, DOUGLAS B	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2142	
DATE MAILED: 08/09/2006				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/532,034	CONNELLY, JAY H.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Douglas B. Blair	2142

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 July 2006.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1,2,4-8,10-12,14-19 and 21-32 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1,2,4-8,10-12,14-19 and 21-32 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 4/7/06, 7/11/06.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Claims 1-2, 4-8, 10-12, 14-19, and 21-32 are currently pending in this application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-2, 4-8, 10-12, 14-19, and 21-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Number 6,088,722 to Herz et al. in view of U.S. Patent Number 6,357,042 to Srinivasan et al..

4. Herz teaches the invention as claimed (As in exemplary claim 28) including a system comprising: a broadcast system; and one or more client systems coupled to the broadcast system; wherein the broadcast system is coupled to broadcast meta-data to a plurality of client systems, the meta-data including titles (col. 14, lines 24-64) of specific pieces of broadcast programming content being considered for future broadcast, but which have not yet been scheduled in a future broadcast, the meta-data further including sets of descriptors and/or attributes describing the specific pieces of broadcast programming content (col. 14, lines 24-64, the clips presented for the user to rate); wherein the plurality of client systems are coupled to rate in response to a content rating table one or more of the specific pieces of broadcast programming content described by the meta-data, the content rating table generated using the meta-data and containing

ratings derived from observations of data pieces of broadcast programming content having similar descriptors and/or attributes to the descriptors and/or attributes included in the meta-data that have been previously accessed via that client system (col. 12, lines 26-48 and col. 14, lines 24-64); wherein the one or more client systems are coupled to transmit to the broadcast system the ratings (col. 14, lines 17-23); wherein the broadcast system is coupled to select a portion of the specific pieces of broadcast programming content in response to the ratings received for the plurality of client systems (col. 22, line 64-col. 23, line 38); and wherein the broadcast system is further coupled to broadcast the selected portion of the specific pieces of broadcast programming content (col. 22, line 64-col. 23, line 38); however Herz does not explicitly teach *broadcasting* meta-data to the client in order to rate content.

Srinivasan teaches the concept of broadcasting meta-data in video data stream (col. 20, lines 15-53).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the Computer Networking art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Herz regarding the scheduling of data in a broadcast system with the teachings of Srinivasan regarding the concept of broadcasting meta-data in a video stream because Herz already teaches broadcasting so the teachings of Srinivasan provide a way for Herz to deliver information to set top boxes without having to modify the concepts taught by Herz.

5. As to claims 2, 15, and 25, Herz teaches a machine readable medium and method wherein the selected portion of the plurality of pieces of broadcast programming content that are broadcast are pieces of broadcast programming content having higher content ratings than a

remaining portion of pieces of broadcast content that are not selected (col. 22, line 64-col. 23, line 38).

6. As to claims 4, 12, 16, and 23, Herz teaches a system able to receive a broadcast schedule of the second plurality of pieces of broadcast programming content prior to selectively receiving the portion of the second plurality of pieces of broadcast programming content (col. 47, lines 9-30).

7. As to claims 5 and 17, Herz teaches a system able to broadcast a broadcast schedule of the meta-data prior to broadcasting the meta-data to the plurality of client systems (col. 47, lines 9-30).

8. As to claim 6, Herz teaches a method wherein broadcasting the selected portion of the plurality of pieces of broadcast programming content to the plurality of client systems comprises broadcasting one of the plurality of pieces of broadcast programming content having a higher rating prior to broadcasting one of the plurality of pieces of broadcast programming content having a lower rating (col. 22, line 64-col. 23, line 38).

9. As to claims 8, 11, 19, 22, and 27, Herz teaches receiving a meta-data broadcast schedule broadcast by the server system, the client system activated in response to the meta-data broadcast schedule (col. 47, lines 9-30).

10. As to claims 29-32, Herz teaches a system wherein each of the plurality client systems is coupled to selectively receive and store a portion of the selected portion of the plurality of pieces of broadcast programming content in response to a content rating table associated with each respective one of the plurality of client systems (col. 47, lines 9-30).

Response to Arguments

11. Applicant's arguments filed 7/11/2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The applicant argues that Herz never teaches or suggests broadcasting meta-data that describes specific pieces of content and includes the title of the specific pieces of content and that Herz only discloses transmitting content profiles of programs that have been scheduled for broadcast. However, these assertions by the applicant ignore col. 14, lines 24-64 of Herz which describe Herz sending clips of programs for a user to rate such as "First Blood". Clearly these clips have titles, for example "First Blood". The whole purpose of sending the clips is to gather information about user preferences to better schedule programming content.

Conclusion

12. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.



ANDREW CALDWELL
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

13. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Douglas B. Blair whose telephone number is 571-272-3893. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30am-5pm Mon-Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Caldwell can be reached on 571-272-3868. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Douglas Blair

